United Nations S/2001/593

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 June 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 13 June 2001 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia, I have the honour to attach herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter dated 12 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations (see annex).

I would appreciate it if this letter were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kishore **Mahbubani**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia

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Annex

Letter dated 12 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia

Upon instruction of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by Monie R. Captan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia (see enclosure). The original letter was forwarded through the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Monrovia for onward transmission.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lami **Kawah**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

Letter dated 11 June 2001 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia

The Government of Liberia strongly protests the Security Council Committee list of persons affected by resolution 1343 (2001) on Liberia. The list is extremely and unfairly punitive. It appears to have been drawn up on the basis of arbitrary submissions to the Committee rather than being based upon any systematic criteria that took into consideration the relevant provisions of the resolution. The scope of the list goes beyond that which was defined in paragraph 7 of the said resolution. The variety of errors in the list suggests that its preparation and dissemination were rushed and based upon an old database; hence it is fraught with numerous inaccuracies.

The relevant provisions of resolution 1343 (2001), paragraph 7, state that "... States shall take the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of senior members of the Government of Liberia and its armed forces and their spouses and any other individuals *providing financial and military support to armed rebel groups in countries neighbouring Liberia, in particular the RUF in Sierra Leone*, as designated by the Committee". The list submitted renders this provision questionable in concept and content.

Some examples of inaccuracies include the following persons, who no longer hold the posts in Government designated by the Committee: Charles Bright, Samuel Burnett (recovering from a stroke for two years), Martin George, S. Loyola Fleming, David McGill, Alexander Kulue, Maxwell Poe, Nah-John Suah, George Wallace and Augustine Zayzay.

Some examples of inaccuracies in dates of birth include the following persons listed by the Committee: Charles G. Taylor, Charles B. Roberts Jr. (his 83 year old late father's birthday was used), Nah-John Suah, Austen Clarke, Kpenkpah Konah and John T. Richardson.

Your Committee's list attaches the erroneous designation of "adviser" or "informal adviser" to these persons: Akkram Basma, Hassan Basma, Jamal Basma (proprietors of businesses in automobiles, tiles and petroleum, and established in Liberia for over 30 years), Charles Bright (private farmer), Maurice Cooper (private businessman), Gabrielle Doe (private businessman), Ernest Eastman (head of a research institute), Samuel Eid (private businessman who provides electrical supplies), Khalid Eldine (private businessman), Myrtle Gibson (senator), Samuel Mustapha Gibson (private businessman), George Haddad and Elias Haddad (private businessmen engaged in the supply of rice, wholesale foodstuffs and vehicles), Mohammed Kafel (private businessman), Grace Minor (senator and not adviser), Lawrence Morgan (lawyer) and Simon Rosenblum (private businessman engaged in road construction who has served as contractor for some United Nations and European Union projects).

In the light of the above, the Government of Liberia requests from the Commitee its definition of "adviser" and "informal adviser". Is it a friend, an acquaintance?

Your Committee's list has heavily targeted the Liberian economy and in particular the business community as a whole. In so doing, the Committee has sent out a warning to potential investors against doing business in Liberia. Furthermore, the Committee has arbitrarily included in its list all of those involved in the logging industry, which provides the largest number of jobs in an economy experiencing an unemployment rate in excess of 85 per cent.

Some examples of technicians who are not senior officials of government include the following persons listed by the Committee: Edith Bowen Carr (rank below Deputy Minister), Philipbert Brown (rank below Deputy Minister), Randolph Cooper (airport manager), A. Tijani Darrah (head of a public corportation), Wisseh Dennis (consultant who has been ill for over six months), Alphonso Gaye (port manager), Charles B. Roberts (telecom boss), Elias Saleeby (Governor of Central Bank which is independent of Government), Lydia Sanimanie (passport director), James Wolo (radio station manager) and Roger Woodson (manager of a public corporation providing water and funded by the European Union).

Some examples of spouses who are divorced but singled out by the Committee include Carol Chea (spouse of the Defence Minister, divorced over two years), Tupee Taylor (spouse of the President, divorced over five years) and Agnes Taylor (former spouse of the President, now permanent representative to the International Maritime Organization). Agnes Taylor is a diplomat below the level of Ambassador. How did the Committee determine that she is a senior official of government when no ambassador has been designated as a senior official?

The Government of Liberia wishes to bring to the attention of the Committee the fact that the international community urged the President of Liberia to establish a government of inclusion as a means of achieving reconciliation during the post-conflict period. The President appointed many opposition persons and professionals living abroad to government posts to assist in the country's reconciliation and reconstruction efforts. Most of these persons have been selected by the Committee for punishment, and all potential professionals have been driven away from accepting any jobs with their government for fear of being targeted by the Committee. This action by the Committee could reverse some of the significant post-conflict gains in Liberia that are crucial for national unity, peace and the welfare of the Liberian people.

The Government of Liberia wishes to bring to the attention of the Committee the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is charged with the implementation of the country's foreign policy and its external representation at both the bilateral and multilateral levels, has been unduly targeted for travel restrictions, thus impairing Liberia's capacity to conduct its foreign policy. The following Foreign Ministry officials were targeted by the Committee: Monie Captan, Tambakai Jangaba, J. Adolphus During, George Wallace, Koboi Johnson, Edith Bowen Carr, Martin George, Nah-John Suah, Agnes Reeves Taylor and Lydia Sanimanie.

The Government of Liberia wishes to draw to the attention of the Committee the fact that, while the actions of the Committee may be considered political in nature, individuals listed by the Committee have expressed their intent to pursue legal action in the courts of competent jurisdiction in those States and against those Governments and individual officials that have submitted their names for inclusion in the list. Those affected have indicated their intention to request the competent

courts to demand any evidence of individual wrongdoing and to provide compensation for damages.

Mr. Chairman, as you will certainly acknowledge, the Government of Liberia has consistently indicated that it would cooperate with the Security Council and it has done so. I wish through you, Mr. Chairman, to appeal to the conscience of other members not to blindly and uninterestedly acquiesce to the excesses of some members of your Committee in imposing undue punishment and hardship against the Liberian Government, business community and ordinary citizens. As a member of the United Nations, Liberia and all members of the Organization have equal rights under the Charter and should therefore never yield to any injustice of political machinations. Does the list established by the Committee constitute an indictment of the individuals listed? Is it a collective indictment? Is a person's integrity now subject to political machinations within the Committee?

The Government of Liberia therefore calls upon the Committee to act to suspend the list of persons affected by the measures contained in paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1343 (2001) and to undertake a review to ensure a direct correlation between the list of persons and the provisions of paragraph 7. We believe that the Committee is under a moral obligation to Liberia, a Charter member of the United Nations, to establish a transparent criterion for the composition of the above-mentioned list. Additionally, the Committee should ensure that the designations are accurate, justifiable and verified.

(*Signed*) Monie R. **Captan**
Minister of Foreign Affairs